Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing of claims in the application.

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently amended) ~~The method in Claim 1, wherein said second display level is generated via activating a picture icon in said main display level.~~ A method for browsing and retrieving pictures in a picture database via a graphical user interface (GUI), said method comprising the steps of:

capturing a digital image;

receiving position information in the form of metadata corresponding to a geographical location where said digital image is captured;

storing digital images and associated metadata in said picture database;

generating a main display level having a first geographical metaphor with picture icons, each said picture icon indicating a specific location in said first geographical metaphor at which a group of pictures in said picture database was captured , and each said picture icon positioned within the environment of the first geographical metaphor at a location that corresponds to the specific location at which the group of pictures was captured;

generating at least a second display level linked to said main display level, said second display level having a second geographical metaphor with greater geographical specificity than said first geographical metaphor with picture icons, each said picture icon indicating a specific location in said second geographical metaphor at which a group of pictures in said picture database was captured, and each said picture icon positioned within the environment of the second geographical metaphor at a location that corresponds to the specific location at which the group of pictures was captured; and

generating an additional display level comprising digital representations of the pictures corresponding to icons in said second display level,

wherein said second display level is generated via activating a picture icon in said main display level, and wherein the additional display level is

generated by activating a picture icon in the second display level a picture icon in said main display level.

3. (Currently amended) The method in ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 2, wherein the relative size of said picture icons is proportional to the number of pictures captured at the locations on the geographical metaphor where said picture icons are placed.

4. (Currently amended) The method in ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 2, wherein the geographic specificity of each display level is configurable by a user.

5. (Currently amended) The method in ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 2, wherein said metadata further comprises temporal capture information.

6. (Original) The method in Claim 5, wherein the temporal specificity of each display level is configurable by a user.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently amended) ~~The method in Claim 1, further comprising the step of:~~ A method for browsing and retrieving pictures in a picture database via a graphical user interface (GUI), said method comprising the steps of:

capturing a digital image;

receiving position information in the form of metadata corresponding to a geographical location where said digital image is captured;

storing digital images and associated metadata in said picture database;

generating a main display level having a first geographical metaphor with picture icons, each said picture icon indicating a specific location in said first geographical metaphor at which a group of pictures in said picture database was captured, and each said picture icon positioned within the environment of the first geographical metaphor at a location that corresponds to the specific location at which the group of pictures was captured;

generating at least a second display level linked to said main display level, said second display level having a second geographical metaphor with greater geographical specificity than said first geographical metaphor with picture icons, each said picture icon indicating a specific location in said second geographical metaphor at which a group of pictures in said picture database was captured, and each said picture icon positioned within the environment of the second geographical metaphor at a location that corresponds to the specific location at which the group of pictures was captured; and

generating a third display level linked to said second display level, said third display level having a third geographical metaphor with greater geographical specificity than said second geographical metaphor with picture icons, each said picture icon ~~corresponding to~~ indicating a specific location in said second geographical metaphor at which a group of pictures in said picture database was captured ~~at a specific location in said third geographical metaphor~~, and each said picture icon positioned within the environment of the third geographical metaphor at a location that corresponds to the specific location at which the group of pictures was captured; and

generating an additional display level comprising digital representations of the pictures corresponding to icons in said third display level,

wherein said third display level is generated via activating a picture icon in said main display level, said third display level is generated via activating a picture icon in said second display level, and wherein the additional display level is generated by activating a picture icon in third display level.

9. (Currently amended) ~~The method of Claim 8, further comprising the step of:~~ A method for browsing and retrieving pictures in a picture database via a graphical user interface (GUI), said method comprising the steps of:

capturing a digital image;

receiving position information in the form of metadata corresponding to a geographical location where said digital image is captured;

storing digital images and associated metadata in said picture database;

generating a main display level having a first geographical metaphor with picture icons, each said picture icon indicating a specific location in said first geographical metaphor at which a group of pictures in said picture database was captured; and each said picture icon positioned within the environment of the first geographical metaphor at a location that corresponds to the specific location at which the group of pictures was captured;

generating at least a second display level linked to said main display level, said second display level having a second geographical metaphor with greater geographical specificity than said first geographical metaphor with picture icons, each said picture icon indicating a specific location in said second geographical metaphor at which a group of pictures in said picture database was captured, and each said picture icon positioned within the environment of the second geographical metaphor at a location that corresponds to the specific location at which the group of pictures was captured;

generating a third display level linked to said second display level, said third display level having a third geographical metaphor with greater geographical specificity than said second geographical metaphor with picture icons, each said picture icon indicating a specific location in said third geographical metaphor at which a group of pictures in said picture database was captured, and each said picture icon positioned within the environment of the third geographical metaphor at a location that corresponds to the specific location at which the group of pictures was captured;

generating a fourth display level linked to said third display level, said fourth display level having a fourth geographical metaphor with greater geographical specificity than said third geographical metaphor with picture icons, each said picture icon ~~corresponding to~~ indicating a specific location in said second geographical metaphor at which a group of pictures in said picture database was captured ~~at a specific location in said fourth geographical metaphor~~, and each said picture icon positioned within the environment of the fourth geographical metaphor at a location that corresponds to the specific location at which the group of pictures was captured; and

generating an additional display level comprising digital representations of the pictures corresponding to icons in said third display level,

wherein said second display level is generated via activating a picture icon in said main display level, said third display level is generated via activating a picture icon in said second display level, said fourth display level is generated via activating a picture icon in said third display level, and wherein the additional display level is generated by activating a picture icon in the fourth display level.

10. (Currently amended) ~~The method in Claim 9, further comprising the step of:~~

~~generating a fifth display level linked to said fourth display level, said fifth display level having a fifth geographical metaphor with greater geographical specificity than said fourth geographical metaphor with picture icons, each said picture icon corresponding to a group of pictures in said picture database captured at a specific location in said fifth geographical metaphor.~~

A method for browsing and retrieving pictures in a picture database via a graphical user interface (GUI), said method comprising the steps of:

generating a main display level having a first geographical metaphor with picture icons, each said picture icon indicating a specific location in said first geographical metaphor at which a group of pictures in said picture database was captured; and each picture icon positioned within the environment of the first geographical metaphor at a location that corresponds to the specific location at which the group of pictures was captured;

a second display generator adapted to generate a second display level linked to said main display level, said second display level having a second geographical metaphor with greater geographical specificity than said first geographical metaphor with picture icons, each said picture icon indicating a specific location in said first geographical metaphor at which a group of pictures in said picture database was captured, and each picture icon positioned within the environment of the second geographical metaphor at a location that corresponds to the specific location at which the group of pictures was captured;

a third display level generator adapted to generate a third display level linked to said second display level, said third display level having a third geographical metaphor with greater geographical specificity than said second

geographical metaphor with picture icons, each said picture icon indicating a specific location in said third geographical metaphor at which a group of pictures in said picture database was captured, and each picture icon positioned within the environment of the third geographical metaphor at a location that corresponds to the specific location at which the group of pictures was captured;

a fourth display generator adapted to generate a fourth display level linked to said third display level, said fourth display level having a fourth geographical metaphor with greater geographical specificity than said third display level having a fourth geographical metaphor with greater geographical specificity than said second geographical metaphor with picture icons, each said picture icon indicating a specific location in said fourth geographical metaphor at which a group of pictures in said picture database was captured, and each said picture icon positioned within the environment of the third geographical metaphor at a location that corresponds to the specific location at which the group of pictures was captured;

a fifth display generator adapted to generate a fifth display level linked to said fourth display level, said fifth display level having a fifth geographical metaphor with greater geographical specificity than said fourth geographical metaphor with picture icons, each said picture icon indicating a specific location in said fifth geographical metaphor at which a group of pictures in said picture database was captured, and each picture icon positioned within the environment of the fourth geographical metaphor at a location that corresponds to the specific location at which the group of pictures was captured; and

an additional level generator adapted to generate an additional display level comprising digital representations of the pictures corresponding to icons in said fifth display level;

wherein said second display level is generated via activating a picture icon in said main display level, said third display level is generated via activating a picture icon in said second display level, said fourth display level is generated via activating a picture icon in said third display level, said fifth display level is generated via activating a picture icon in said fourth display level,

and wherein the additional display level is generated by activating a picture icon in the fifth display level.

11. (Currently amended) The method in ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 2, wherein said first geographical metaphor is a world map.

12. (Currently amended) The method in ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 2, wherein said first geographical metaphor is a world map, and said second geographical metaphor is a continent map.

13. (Currently amended) The method in ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 2, wherein said first geographical metaphor is a world map, and said second geographical metaphor is a country map.

14. (Original) The method in Claim 8, wherein said first geographical metaphor is a world map, said second geographical metaphor is a continent/country map, and said third geographical metaphor is a state/territory map.

15. (Original) The method in Claim 9, wherein said first geographical metaphor is a world map, said second geographical metaphor is a continent/country map, said third geographical metaphor is a state/territory map, and said fourth geographical metaphor is a city/town map.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently amended) ~~The system in Claim 16, wherein said second display generator is triggered via activating a picture icon in said main display level.~~ A graphical user interface (GUI) system adapted for browsing and retrieving pictures in a picture database, said system comprising:

a memory adapted to store digital images and associated metadata corresponding to capture location in said picture database;

a main display level generator adapted to generate a main display level having a first geographical metaphor with picture icons, each said picture icon indicating a specific location in said first geographical metaphor at which a group of pictures in said picture database was captured; and each picture icon positioned within the environment of the first geographical metaphor at a location

that corresponds to the specific location at which the group of pictures was captured;

a second display generator adapted to generate a second display level linked to said main display level, said second display level having a second geographical metaphor with greater geographical specificity than said first geographical metaphor with picture icons, each said picture icon indicating a specific location in said first geographical metaphor at which a group of pictures in said picture database was captured; and each picture icon positioned within the environment of the second geographical metaphor at a location that corresponds to the specific location at which the group of pictures was captured; and

an additional display level generator adapted to an additional display level comprising digital representations of the pictures corresponding to icons in said second display level;

wherein said second display generator is triggered via activating a picture icon in said main display level, and wherein the additional display level is generated by activating a picture icon in the second display level.

18. (Currently amended) The system in ~~Claim 16~~ Claim 17, wherein the relative size of said picture icons is proportional to the number of pictures captured at the locations on the geographical metaphor where said picture icons are placed.

19. (Currently amended) The system in ~~Claim 16~~ Claim 17, wherein the geographic specificity of each display level is configurable by a user.

20. (Currently amended) The system in ~~Claim 16~~ Claim 17, wherein said metadata further comprises temporal capture information.

21. (Original) The system in Claim 20, wherein the temporal specificity of each display level is configurable by a user.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently amended) ~~The system in Claim 16, further comprising~~ A graphical user interface (GUI) system adapted for browsing and retrieving pictures in a picture database, said system comprising:

a memory adapted to store digital images and associated metadata corresponding to capture location in said picture database;

a main display level generator adapted to generate a main display level having a first geographical metaphor with picture icons, each said picture icon indicating a specific location in said first geographical metaphor at which a group of pictures in said picture database was captured; and each picture icon positioned within the environment of the first geographical metaphor at a location that corresponds to the specific location at which the group of pictures was captured;

a second display level generator adapted to generate a second display level linked to said main display level, said second display level having a second geographical metaphor with greater geographical specificity than said first geographical metaphor with picture icons, each said picture icon indicating a specific location in said first geographical metaphor at which a group of pictures in said picture database was captured; and each picture icon positioned within the environment of the second geographical metaphor at a location that corresponds to the specific location at which the group of pictures was captured;

a third display level generator adapted to generate a third display level linked to said second display level, said third display level having a third geographical metaphor with greater geographical specificity than said second geographical metaphor with picture icons, each said picture icon ~~corresponding to~~ indicating a specific location in said third geographical metaphor at which a group of pictures in said picture database was captured, and each picture icon positioned within the environment of the third geographical metaphor at a location that corresponds to the specific location at which the group of pictures was captured; and

an additional display level generator adapted to an additional display level comprising digital representations of the pictures corresponding to icons in said third display level;

wherein said second display level is generated via activating a picture icon in said main display level, said third display level is generated via

activating a picture icon in said second display level, and wherein the additional display level is generated by activating a picture icon in the third display level.

24. (Currently amended) ~~The system in Claim 23, further comprising:~~ A graphical user interface (GUI) system adapted for browsing and retrieving pictures in a picture database, said system comprising:

a memory adapted to store digital images and associated metadata corresponding to capture location in said picture database;

a main display level generator adapted to generate a main display level having a first geographical metaphor with picture icons, each said picture icon indicating a specific location in said first geographical metaphor at which a group of pictures in said picture database was captured; and each picture icon positioned within the environment of the first geographical metaphor at a location that corresponds to the specific location at which the group of pictures was captured;

a second display generator adapted to generate a second display level linked to said main display level, said second display level having a second geographical metaphor with greater geographical specificity than said first geographical metaphor with picture icons, each said picture icon indicating a specific location in said first geographical metaphor at which a group of pictures in said picture database was captured; and each picture icon positioned within the environment of the second geographical metaphor at a location that corresponds to the specific location at which the group of pictures was captured;

a third display level generator adapted to generate a third display level linked to said second display level, said third display level having a third geographical metaphor with greater geographical specificity than said second geographical metaphor with picture icons, each said picture icon indicating a specific location in said third geographical metaphor at which a group of pictures in said picture database was captured, and each picture icon positioned within the environment of the third geographical metaphor at a location that corresponds to the specific location at which the group of pictures was captured;

a fourth display generator adapted to generate a fourth display level linked to said third display level, said fourth display level having a fourth geographical metaphor with greater geographical specificity than said third

geographical metaphor with picture icons, each said picture icon ~~corresponding to~~ indicating a specific location in said third geographical metaphor at which a group of pictures in said picture database was captured ~~at a specific location in said fourth geographical metaphor~~ and each picture icon positioned within the environment of the third geographical metaphor at a location that corresponds to the specific location at which the group of pictures was captured; and

an additional level generator adapted to generate an additional level comprising digital representations of the pictures corresponding to icons in said fourth display level;

wherein said second display level is generated via activating a picture icon in said main display level, said third display level is generated via activating a picture icon in said second display level, said fourth display level is generated via activating a picture icon in said third display level, and wherein the additional display level is generated by activating a picture icon in the fourth display level.

25. (Currently amended) ~~The system in Claim 24, further comprising:~~

A graphical user interface (GUI) system adapted for browsing and retrieving pictures in a picture database, said system comprising:

a memory adapted to store digital images and associated metadata corresponding to capture location in said picture database;

a main display level generator adapted to generate a main display level having a first geographical metaphor with picture icons, each said picture icon indicating a specific location in said first geographical metaphor at which a group of pictures in said picture database was captured; and each picture icon positioned within the environment of the first geographical metaphor at a location that corresponds to the specific location at which the group of pictures was captured;

a second display generator adapted to generate a second display level linked to said main display level, said second display level having a second geographical metaphor with greater geographical specificity than said first geographical metaphor with picture icons, each said picture icon indicating a specific location in said first geographical metaphor at which a group of pictures

in said picture database was captured; and each picture icon positioned within the environment of the second geographical metaphor at a location that corresponds to the specific location at which the group of pictures was captured;

a third display level generator adapted to generate a third display level linked to said second display level, said third display level having a third geographical metaphor with greater geographical specificity than said second geographical metaphor with picture icons, each said picture icon indicating a specific location in said third geographical metaphor at which a group of pictures in said picture database was captured, and each picture icon positioned within the environment of the second geographical metaphor at a location that corresponds to the specific location at which the group of pictures was captured; and

a fourth display generator adapted to generate a fourth display level linked to said third display level, said fourth display level having a fourth geographical metaphor with greater geographical specificity than said third geographical metaphor with picture icons, each said picture icon indicating a specific location in said fourth geographical metaphor at which a group of pictures in said picture database was captured, and each picture icon positioned within the environment of the fourth geographical metaphor at a location that corresponds to the specific location at which the group of pictures was captured;

a fifth display generator adapted to generate a fifth display level linked to said fourth display level, said fifth display level having a fifth geographical metaphor with greater geographical specificity than said fourth geographical metaphor with picture icons, each said picture icon corresponding to a specific location in said fifth geographical metaphor at which a group of pictures in said picture database was captured ~~at a specific location in said fifth geographical metaphor~~, and

an additional level generator adapted to generate an additional level comprising digital representations of the pictures corresponding to icons in said fifth display level;

wherein said second display level is generated via activating a picture icon in said main display level, said third display level is generated via activating a picture icon in said second display level, said fourth display level is generated via activating a picture icon in said third display level, said fifth display level is generated via activating a picture icon in said fourth display level.

26. (Currently amended) The system in ~~Claim 16~~ Claim 17, wherein said first geographical metaphor is a world map.

27. (Currently amended) The system in ~~Claim 16~~ Claim 17, wherein said first geographical metaphor is a world map, and said second geographical metaphor is a continent map.

28. (Currently amended) The system in ~~Claim 16~~ Claim 17, wherein said first geographical metaphor is a world map, and said second geographical metaphor is a country map.

29. (Original) The system in Claim 23, wherein said first geographical metaphor is a world map, said second geographical metaphor is a continent/country map, and said third geographical metaphor is a state/territory map.

30. (Original) The system in Claim 24, wherein said first geographical metaphor is a world map, said second geographical metaphor is a continent/country map, said third geographical metaphor is a state/territory map, and said fourth geographical metaphor is a city/town map.